Snakes responsible for severe envenomations are considered a real public health problem, especially in tropical countries. Yet, snake venom, which is made up of hundreds of specific substances, is used more and more in biomedical research and as a diagnostic or therapeutic tool. This text first presents a synthesis of the principal discoveries on venoms and envenomations. Then paleontology and classification of snakes as well as the biochemistry and toxicology of venoms are simply and precisely described to explain the theoretical basis of the envenomation and its treatment. Knowing the biology and behavior of snakes leads to a better identification of the circumstances of snakebites and thus supports prevention efforts. Recommendations and algorithms of treatments are proposed. This reference also lists all the antivenins produced in the world and the antivenomous plants with their therapeutic properties.
Reviews

“This excellent book is an essential addition to the library of any herpetologist, but particularly those doing research on venomous snakes.”—Animal Keeper’s Forum

“…Chippaux’s book is outstanding in detail and coverage of so many aspects of snakebite and envenomation.”—Sonoran Herpetologist

“…provides an explicit reference of biochemistry, toxicology, and serpentine behavior and is a stand-out compilation of expertise in the field.”—The Midwest Book Review

“All in all a very useful reference volume for those with venomous reptiles or perhaps those in the medical profession…for those who wish to learn more about snake venom and its symptoms, this is a very useful book.”—The Herptile

“This is a remarkable compilation of recent work on venoms and snakebite by one of the world’s acknowledged authorities…a useful compilation and update on the subject and while several chapters are technical and would make sense only to a toxicologist or medical practitioner, there is plenty to interest the layman and herpetologist.”—Hamadryad